

**Board of Selectmen Meeting
January 19, 2017 at 7:30pm
Town Hall Meeting Room**

MINUTES

Present: First Selectman Nina Daniel, Selectman Chris Spaulding, Town Administrator Jonathan Luiz, Administrative Assistant Randi Derene, Weston Residents

Selectman Dennis Tracey participated via conference call.

This meeting was videotaped and recorded. The tapes are available in the Selectmen's office. The meetings are available for viewing online via the Town's website.

Ms. Daniel called the meeting to order at: 7:30pm

- 1- **Pledge of Allegiance:** led by Greg Menti
- 2- **Discussion/decision to appoint Dale Robinson to the Commission on Aging for a term to end December 31, 2018.** Ms. Robinson has always felt a connection with the older generation – she has volunteered with the Senior Center and professionally she is a counselor to help the seniors through the Medicare process. She feels the major challenge for seniors here in town is isolation and the one thing she would like to improve is to expand the hours of the dial-a-ride hours. Mr. Spaulding moved to appoint Dale Robinson to the Commission on Aging for a term to end December 31, 2018. Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Daniel introduced Jonathan Luiz, our new Town Administrator. He's been here for 9 days and it's been a very smooth transition.

- 3- ***this item was moved from agenda item #4 to agenda item #3.**
Library Construction project update – Karen Tatarka, Library Director: Ms. Tatarka spoke about the library renovation project. 2 years and 6 months they are almost done with the project. She spoke of all that was completed from doubling the meeting room capabilities, to improved lighting, to adding an internet café. There will be a focus on reaching the birth to 5 year old age groups, and the library is looking to partner with Children & Youth as well as Parks & Recreation. There will be a Ribbon Cutting ceremony on January 25th at 2pm.

- 4- **Discussion/decision regarding the reformation of the Sustainability Committee and candidate interviews.** Interviews will be conducted over the next two meetings. The Selectmen are looking into whether there needs to be an ordinance for a new committee – this question will be answered before the next meeting. In the meantime, interviews were conducted with the following residents: Natalie Terrell, Ellen Strauss and Marc de Mul. Each spoke of their backgrounds and their interest in Sustainability. More interviews will be conducted at the next BOS meeting on February 2nd.
- 5- **Discussion/decision regarding a request by the Republican Town Committee to use Lachat Town Farm for a special event.** This item is being postponed.
- 6- **Discussion/decision to approve the employment agreement between Town of Weston and Tom Landry:** This contract is regarding a part-time schedule for Tom Landry to help with the transition to our new Town Administrator. Mr. Spaulding made a motion to approve the employment agreement between the Town of Weston and Tom Landry, dated January 3, 2017. Ms. Daniel seconded. Motion carried.

7- **Property Tax Refunds**

Honda Lease Trust	\$146.89
Toyota Lease Trust	\$328.44
Hyundai Lease Titling	\$315.66
Karin Nicolet	\$198.81
Leila Ensha	\$108.36
Susan Richard	\$5.51
Suzanne Padilla	\$21.01
Jaguar Financial Group	\$388.96
Porsche Leasing Limited	\$92.49
Subaru Motors Finance	\$1069.25
Land Rover Financial	\$725.71
<u>VW Credit Leasing</u>	<u>\$675.16</u>
Total	\$4,076.25

Ms. Daniel moved to approve the property tax refunds as listed on the January 19th Board of Selectmen agenda for a total amount of \$4,076.25. Mr. Spaulding seconded. Motion carried.

8- Minutes Approval: December 1st and 15th, 2017

Mr. Spaulding moved to approve the minutes from the December 1, 2016 BOS Meeting.

Mr. Tracey seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Spaulding moved to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2016 BOS Meeting. Ms. Daniel seconded, Mr. Tracey abstained. Motion carried.

9- First Selectman Updates:

- a. **Safest Places in Connecticut Report** (see attachment) Weston was voted as the 4th safest town in Connecticut.
- b. **Road Construction update from the CT DOT** – In response to the letter that Ms. Daniel wrote to the CT DOT, the state sent us a letter (see attached) along with a 2 week work schedule which included lane shifting.

10- Executive Session: Litigation Update - postponed

Meeting adjourned: 8:51pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Randi Derene, Administrative Assistant

Approved: February 2, 2017

Safest Places in Connecticut	2014		2016	
	1	Ridgefield	1	Ridgefield
	2	Easton	2	Wilton
	3	Darien	3	Easton
	4	Wilton	4	Weston
	5	Redding	5	Redding

2014 vs. 2016

Methodology

To rank these places, we collected data from the 2014 FBI crime statistics by city, which provides the most recent crime data available. Not every town participates in this report and we also excluded towns with fewer than 5,000 residents because towns with small populations are more sensitive to crime score fluctuations for fewer crimes committed. The raw data report included property crimes (burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson), and violent crimes (murder/manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) from all law enforcement agencies that chose to partake in the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting program.

We standardized the data to reflect violent and property crimes per 100,000, to account for population. Then, we aggregated a "crime score" by weighting violent crime at 80% and property crime at 20%. Though property crime is more prevalent, we figured that violent crime is more concerning to town residents. Then we adjusted the crime score for population size, giving more slack to larger cities. Finally, we ranked the cities based on their crime scores.

Here is an alphabetical table of all cities included with their ranks, making it easier to compare different cities. See where your city lies!

Rank	City	Population	Violent Crime per 100K	Property Crime per 100K	Crime Score
61	Ansonia	18,964	190	1,962	1,164
19	Avon	18,441	11	922	412
37	Berlin	20,767	53	1,435	711
14	Bethel	19,425	-	844	362

73	Bloomfield	20,718	188	2,428	1,373
66	Branford	27,977	89	2,363	1,210
89	Bridgeport	147,822	905	2,899	3,370
75	Bristol	60,590	119	2,497	1,422
23	Brookfield	16,957	18	955	434
10	Canton	10,372	19	694	310
18	Cheshire	29,120	21	824	405
55	Clinton	13,164	137	1,990	1,045
28	Coventry	12,403	73	1,072	558
48	Cromwell	14,223	56	2,067	952

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Comments and Questions

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Mike Dodd • 18 hours ago

Why only 91 out of 169?

^ v • [Reply](#) • [Share](#)



Peter Gautieri • 3 days ago

Voluntown left out as usual we should petition the state to succeed to Rhode Island

^ v • [Reply](#) • [Share](#)

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Safest Places in Connecticut (2016)

Large

OVER 30K

- 1 Greenwich
- 2 Glastonbury
- 3 Shelton
- 4 Wallingford
- 5 Trumbull
- 6 Southington
- 7 Enfield
- 8 Fairfield
- 9 Naugatuck
- 10 Torrington

Mid-sized

17K - 30K

- 1 Ridgefield
- 2 Wilton
- 3 New Canaan
- 4 Madison
- 5 Simsbury
- 6 Newtown
- 7 Bethel
- 8 Monroe
- 9 Cheshire
- 10 Avon

Small

5 - 17K

- 1 Easton
- 2 Weston
- 3 Redding
- 4 East Hampton
- 5 Suffield
- 6 Canton
- 7 Portland
- 8 Granby
- 9 Middlebury
- 10 Plainfield

Data supplied by

ValuePenguin



Full List of Places in Connecticut

Below is the entire list of places that we included in our "Safest Places in Connecticut" study. They are listed from the safest to the least safe, according to our analysis. The calculation for the crime scores can be found in the methodology section below. Take a look at the graph and see where your hometown ranks.

Rank	City	Crime Score
1	Ridgefield	120
2	Wilton	148
3	Easton	152

4	Weston	158
5	Redding	242
6	East Hampton	264
7	New Canaan	284
8	Suffield	285
9	Madison	296
10	Canton	310
11	Portland	316
12	Simsbury	324
13	Newtown	340
14	Bethel	362
15	...	365

Show All Rows

Year-to-year Change

ValuePenguin last analyzed Connecticut's cities in 2014. There was great consistency in the safest places to live. As in 2014, every community in the top five is in Fairfield County. Four of this year's top five safest places were in the top five for 2014.

In both years, two of the safest places were mid-size cities and three were small cities. Greenwich was the safest large city in 2014 and 2016. Ridgefield and Easton were the safest mid-size and small cities respectively in 2014 and 2016.

There was even consistency among the least safest cities. Four cities in the bottom five for 2016, Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport and New London, were in the bottom five in 2014. Also, four of the five cities with the highest crime scores were from the large category.

January 3, 2017

Mr. James Zaharevich
Transportation Engineer III
CT Department of Transportation
District IV
359 South Main Street
Thomaston CT 06787

Re: Project #170-2876

Mr. Zaharevich:

Over the past year, your office has been contacted many times by Weston officials and residents about the DOT project on Route 57 in Weston, but to no avail. The subject has been the community's concern regarding the slow pace of progress on the project, and more importantly, the serious safety issues that exist. I find, regrettably, that I must formally add my name to this growing list of correspondents.

The immediate problem is that the "temporary" lane configurations and concrete barriers in place for many months reduced the number of available travel lanes, narrowed the two lanes that remain, and eliminated shoulders. Please note that Route 57 is the only major artery into and out of the Town of Weston and bears significant truck and car traffic. The stretch of road in question lies along the curve of a long hill, with a turn onto a one-way residential street in the middle of the curve. Line of sight is limited. There are few if any warning lights. Worse, with a concrete wall on one side and a ditch on the other, there is absolutely no allowance for either human error or adverse weather conditions. Emergency services recently pulled a driver from his overturned car in the ditch, and I hear of numerous other near-misses from residents. The local newspaper has picked up the concern felt by townspeople in front page articles reporting what the DOT is, and is not, doing to address the problem.

Each time that the DOT is contacted, an excuse is provided as to why the project is dragging on and why, despite the presence of the barriers and lane shifts, no work is conducted on site. The equipment simply sits unused for weeks at a time. Residents and travelers must suffer through the hazardous lane restrictions to no apparent productive end. When the Department finally decided to move the project along again, it did so with an all-night operation involving loud, beeping machinery without any prior notice to the neighbors or Town officials. Complaints flooded in from sleepless neighbors.

The Department and its contractors simply must do better.

As winter weather arrives, I write with a sense of urgency and in the hopes of receiving a full work plan/schedule that you will implement to get this project on track. At present, there is an ongoing open excavation with no work being completed. Please specify also the safety measures the Department will utilize to mitigate the hazardous conditions described herein. If helpful, I am available to meet with you and will invite our Police Chief and Town Engineer to join us.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,





STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT IV
359 South Main Street
Thomaston, Connecticut 06787
Phone: (203) 591-3540



January 12, 2017

The Honorable Nina Daniels
First Selectman
56 Northfield Road
P.O. Box 1007
Weston, CT 06883

RECEIVED

JAN 19 2017

TOWN OF WESTON
SELECTMAN'S OFFICE

Dear Ms. Daniels:

Project: #170-2876
F.A.P. #000R(737)
Towns of Weston and Southbury
Route 57 and Route 188
Rehabilitation of Bridge #'s 06716 and 06717 Route 57 over Kettle Brook and Route 188 over Unnamed Brook

Subject: Reply to Letter Regarding Route 57 Construction Project

Thank you for your letter outlining your concerns about the work site and construction progress for our project on Route 57 near River Road. We share your concerns regarding safety and lack of progress, and I assure we have been closely monitoring the events that have caused this project to be delayed. Enclosed is the Contractor's most recent schedule update, which describes when we expect the job to be completed along with a chronology of events that have delayed this project. We are also including in this letter a list of activities that will need to be completed by our Contractor so you may know what to expect over the coming months.

Work at the River Road (Site 1) culvert was stopped in December 2015, when Eversource Energy (Eversource) discovered, just prior to culvert installation, missing concrete encasement around their sixteen (16) six (6) inch underground high voltage duct lines. Eversource required several months to design their repair, select their own subcontractor, and establish a purchase order to finalize their contract. In order to mitigate any safety related issues at that time, we directed the State's Contractor to remove the temporary concrete jersey barriers thus providing all four (4) lanes to the traveling public during the winter of 2016. Additionally, overhead utility wire relocation was required to provide clearance for the crane further delaying our contractor, Dayton Construction Company, Inc., (DCCI).

Work resumed in the spring of 2016, while Eversource worked on the concrete encasement and DCCI installed the temporary utility support system. Soon after that, Eversource determined insufficient concrete encasement around their duct bank at the Timber Hill Road (Site 2) causing a delay at this location. Both sites required DOT to acquire design revisions from our designer after re-review of the environmental permits, exacerbating the delay.

The Honorable Nina Daniels

Project #: 170-2876

Subject: Reply to Letter Regarding Route 57 Construction Project

January 12, 2017

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The temporary lane configurations are in place because it is expected DCCI will continue to work through this winter. To address the safety concerns, the barriers were recently relocated further back from the edge line and the downhill right side shoulder was widened with bituminous concrete pavement to provide additional area for cars and improved snow removal. Additionally, a new portable variable message sign was also installed.

DCCI's scheduled activities are listed below. This work will require multiple stages of traffic shifting to accomplish the excavation while maintaining traffic with a minimum of one (1) lane in each direction:

- 1) The work will include excavation to install one half (to the middle of the road) of a plastic temporary bypass pipe to divert the stream.
- 2) Then the temporary precast barrier will be moved to allow traffic to travel on the east half of the road, to install the other half of the temporary bypass.
- 3) Then the temporary precast barrier will be moved again (to the position it is in today) to allow excavation for the new permanent concrete box culvert on that half of the road.
- 4) When that half is installed, the barrier will be moved again to allow completion of the other half of the new permanent concrete box culvert.

In addition to the plastic pipe and the concrete box, each stage above will require temporary support of underground utility pipes (electric on Route 57 uphill and gas on Route 57 downhill). Based on test pits that have been dug in the area and the visible natural rock outcropping, we expect ledge to be another difficulty during excavation.

The process above is a condensed explanation of the work involved, and the same four (4) stages will need to be performed separately for the work at the Timber Hill Lane (Site 2) culvert. Also, Route 57 at River Road and Timber Hill Lane cannot be performed simultaneously because it would block access to Ledgebrook Court.

In summary, the majority of the work involves underground installations and progress is not always readily visible. Obstacles and design changes which require time and coordination with third parties are not always obvious to the public. Although it appears that the time allowed is longer than necessary, it has been planned out to minimize disruption while maintaining safety to meet transportation standards.

The Honorable Nina Daniels

Project #: 170-2876

Subject: Reply to Letter Regarding Route 57 Construction Project

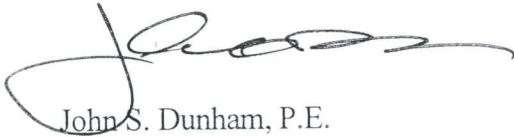
January 12, 2017

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In order to keep the Town informed of work progress, we have emailed copies of all of our progress meetings to Mr. Thomas Landry since October 2015. We have met with Mr. Dennis Tracey on October 28, 2016, and had additional field meetings with Police and Maintenance as recent as November 30, 2016 and December 9, 2016.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (203) 591-3540.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John S. Dunham", with a large, stylized initial "J" and a long horizontal flourish.

John S. Dunham, P.E.

District Engineer

Bureau of Engineering
and Construction

Enclosures

Dayton Construction Company

Project: 467 Weston site 1

TWO-WEEK ACTIVITY SCHEDULE Dates: 1/16/16 to 1/27/16

1st WEEK	Date	Activities: (Earth, Structure-concrete, rebar, Paving, Traffic changes, Trafficmen, SubContractors, etc.)	Materials
Monday	16	Set Sheeting, drill and grout and bolt together	
Tuesday	17	Set Sheeting, drill and grout and bolt together	
Wednesday	18	Back Fill between sheets and set blocks at ends of sheets	
Thursday	19	Widen road, set blocks on down stream side, remove guard rail, grade roadway	
Friday	20	Pave	
2nd WEEK	Date	Activities: (Earth, Structure-concrete, rebar, Paving, Traffic changes, Trafficmen, SubContractors, etc.)	Materials
Monday	23	Set barriers, and Line stripe	
Tuesday	24	Install Bypass	
Wednesday	25	Install Bypass	
Thursday	26	Set cofferdams and start earth retaining system	
Friday	27	Earth Retaining system	